

CLAIMS

1 1-7. *(canceled)*

1 8. *(previously presented)* A method comprising the steps of:  
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization  
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by  
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;  
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that  
6 centrifugal force in excess of 1G urges said sample liquid against said  
7 array; and  
8 agitating said sample liquid in said reaction cell during said  
9 centrifuging so that said sample liquid moves relative to said array.

1 9. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein  
2 said agitation involves rotating said reaction cell about an agitation  
3 axis that is more orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force.

1 10. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 9 wherein  
2 said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation  
3 about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 11. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein  
2 said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said  
3 agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1 12. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim ~~10~~ 8 wherein  
2 said agitation involves rotating said reaction cell about an agitation  
3 axis that extends more parallel to than orthogonal to said centrifuge  
4 axis .

1 13. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 12 wherein  
2 said array extends more orthogonal to said centrifugal force than along  
3 it so that said centrifugal forces urges said sample liquid against said  
4 array.

1        14. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 13 further  
2 comprising a step of removing sample liquid from said reaction cell,  
3 said removing step involving rotating said reaction cell ~~by rotating it~~  
4 about said agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid  
5 in said reaction cell away from said array.

1        15. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein  
2 said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during  
3 said centrifuging and agitating.

1        16. *(previously presented)* A method comprising:  
2        introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization  
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by  
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;  
5        centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that  
6 centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and  
7        rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more  
8 orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force so that said sample  
9 liquid moves relative to said array.

1        17. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 16 wherein  
2 said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation  
3 about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1        18. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 17 wherein  
2 said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said  
3 agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1        19. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 18 wherein  
2 said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during  
3 said agitating.

1       20. *(previously presented)* A method comprising:  
2       introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization  
3       probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by  
4       sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;  
5       centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that  
6       centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and  
7       rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more  
8       parallel than orthogonal to said centrifugal force so that said sample  
9       liquid moves relative to said array.

1       21. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein  
2       said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation  
3       about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1       22. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 21 wherein  
2       said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said  
3       agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1       23. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein  
2       said array extends more orthogonal to said centrifugal force than along  
3       it so that said centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said  
4       array.

1       24. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 23 further  
2       comprising removing sample liquid from said reaction cell, said  
3       removing involving rotating said reaction cell by rotating it about said  
4       agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid in said  
5       reaction cell away from said array.

1       25. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein  
2       said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during  
3       said agitating.